

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	[REDACTED]	25X1
SUBJECT	Soviet Naval Vessels in the Gulf of Finland	DATE DISTR.	6 December 1954	
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	2	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25X1
		REFERENCES	[REDACTED]	

This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. On 20 June 1953 [REDACTED] ship was on its way from Gotland Island to the buoy at Latona Bank which served as the leading buoy for the Gulf of Finland in place of Revelstein Lightship. At 1130 hours [REDACTED] six Soviet destroyers near position N 59-43. E 24-44. The destroyers were about five or six nautical miles from [REDACTED] ship, and they proceeded at slow speed on a southwesterly course. 25X1
2. The destroyers were all the same type and [REDACTED] resembled the former Italian ANIMOSO-Class destroyer.<sup>1</sup> Each ship had one gun forward of the bridge and three guns on the afterdeck; the sternmost gun was mounted on the deck, the middle one on a low substructure, and the foremost one was located on a raised platform. Each vessel had one mast aft of the bridge, and one stack which slanted slightly aft and was level with the upper edge of the bridge; [REDACTED] the stack was fitted with a narrow black smoke hood. The bow of each vessel was raked, and the stern was slightly rounded off on the lower section. [REDACTED] the length of the destroyers [REDACTED] between 80 and 100 meters each. 25X1
3. The destroyers changed formation from a starboard quarter formation to a line ahead formation, and then to a line abreast formation. While executing the line abreast formation, the vessels were about 200 meters apart. During the time of observation, the sky was partly cloudy and the wind was blowing from the southwest with a force of from light to gentle; the sea was smooth and the visibility was good. 25X1
4. At 1600 hours on 23 June 1953 [REDACTED] ten destroyers and six small torpedo boats or corvettes were observed about 15 to 17 nautical miles north of Pakri (N 59-23, E 24-02). The group frequently changed formation, but generally steered a westerly course. The destroyers, which proceeded at about 10 knots, were about two and one-half nautical miles from [REDACTED] ship; the small vessels, which made four or five knots, were about three nautical miles away. Both types belched thick smoke, even at slow speed. 25X1

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	#X	AIR	X	FBI	AEC	[REDACTED]	25X1
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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X", Field distribution by "#")

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5. The destroyers first proceeded in cruising formation in two groups of five at a distance of about 500 meters between the groups and at intervals of 100 meters between the vessels. About five minutes after passing [redacted] vessel, the destroyers made evolutions, first forming quarter formations twice and then as one flotilla forming a line ahead formation. The six torpedo boats followed at a distance of about 1,000 meters proceeding in what seemed to be a starboard quarter formation. The destroyers resembled the former ANIMOSO-Class. The six torpedo boats were similar to the former German ELBE-type fishery inspection vessel. They had two guns on the fantail, a slightly raked bow, a stern rounded near the waterline, one stack, and one mast.<sup>2</sup> 25X1
6. On 25 June 1953 [redacted] ship was on its way from Kotka to Hangoe. The ship had just passed Porkkala, when nine destroyers and five torpedo boats of the types sighted on 23 June were observed in a southerly direction about two or two and one-half nautical miles away. The destroyers changed formation rather frequently but were mostly in close-order formation about 50 to 75 meters apart and at speeds varying between 15 and 20 knots. The small vessels followed at a distance of about one nautical mile on a westerly course in a line abreast formation, and were 75 to 100 meters apart. Three or four vessels towed an unidentified gear, and two of them headed for Porkkala after they had passed [redacted] ship. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] 25X1
1. [redacted] Comment: These vessels were probably T-Class minesweepers and not destroyers. 25X1
2. [redacted] Comment: These vessels were probably ex German M-40 type minesweepers. 25X1

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